

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100  
Sacramento, California

CONTACT: John Carr  
916-419-2525

PR 07-122  
September 27, 2007

## **Two Cited for Selling Alcohol to Minors**

*ABC, Friday Night Live & Heath Experts Try to Reduce Youth Access to Alcohol*

**Mojave-California City** - Investigators of the California Department Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) conducted a minor decoy operation September 26, 2007 in the cities of Mojave and California City and cited two persons for selling alcohol to a minor decoy. The actions were the result of a compliance check operation in cooperation with the Kern County Mental Health Substance Abuse Program. It involved a minor who worked under the direct supervision of the investigators. The minor attempted to purchase alcohol from 15 separate retail licensees. Two businesses allowed the sale of alcohol to the decoy.

The operation was part of a team effort by ABC, Kern County Friday Night Live Partnership and the Kern County Mental Health Department to reduce underage drinking through a combination of educational and enforcement efforts. The Kern County Friday Night Live Partnership is a high school based organization working to stop underage drinking, and encourage positive and healthy choices among youth.

Those who sell to a minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage license where the sale of alcohol to a minor occurred. That may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that liquor licensees are complying with the law.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.